3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team
Task Force Band of Brothers
STORY RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2006

SR# 022106-39

Rooftop security gives piece-of-mind for leadership

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BALAD, Iraq (Feb. 16, 2006) -- In the midst of a bustling city life, with cars buzzing around and people gathered on street corners, security is a prime concern. Because of the shear number of people around a location this creates an unknown number of possible anti Iraqi forces.

While the leadership of Company B, 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, was attending a sheik council meeting in Balad, Iraq, other members of the patrol were busy controlling the area from the ground and on the rooftop.

"It's real important. If the same vehicles are circling throughout the area, (the rooftop security) can identify it right away," said Staff Sgt. Name DeWolfe, headquarters platoon sergeant, Co. B, 1-8 CAB.

DeWolfe's team blocks off the entry and exit points of the compound and is strategically placed elsewhere to scan the city for suspicious activity and possible sniper target positions. One thing the team takes special note of is what things are out of place or not the way they normally are.

"You can spot different patterns and you can tell what's usually here," DeWolfe said. "If it's out of place, we're a little more on edge"

While inside the meeting, Capt. Keven Beattie, commander of Co. B, said the extra security provides him with peace of mind while inside the compound.

"Initially, we go in I have elements clear the building -- they look behind the curtains, underneath the chairs, behind the desks -- they make sure there's no explosives or anybody trying to assassinate any coalition forces that are in there," he said.

If the situation outside the meeting became hostile, Beattie would know almost immediately and be able to react accordingly.

"They can radio me, or whoever else is with me, early so if there is a situation, an armed man coming in or whatever, we can increase our security posture and possibly get out before they attempt to do anything," Beattie said.

Tension at this meeting was high because of a recent insurgent attack that killed 11 people in Balad. But, the meeting was conducting peacefully and Beattie and his team left the meeting the same way they arrived -- together.

A Humvee blocks the entrance to the courtyard where a sheik's council meeting was being held in Balad, Iraq. The Soldiers of Company B, 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, are able to create a secure area by not allowing other vehicles to enter the compound. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office, Feb. 16, 2006)

Pfc. Christopher Robertson, an infantryman from Company B, 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, scans an area around where a sheik council meeting is being held in Balad, Iraq. Robertson was looking for possible sniper positions as well as other suspicious activity. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office, Feb. 16, 2006)